

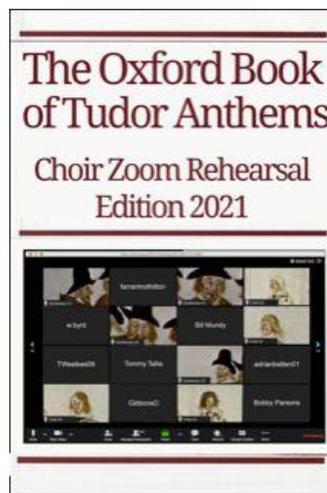


# The South West Early Music Forum

registered charity no. 291319

## If ye love me...? – Polyphony we shouldn't take for granted

An online talk for SWEMF with David Allinson on Zoom,  
Saturday 6 March 2021, 2.30–4pm



A handful of much-loved motets and anthems are such staples of the sacred choral repertoire that it's easy to take them for granted, as 'part of the furniture' — our dog-eared copy of the *Oxford Book of Tudor Anthems* gathers dust on the shelf as we seek out novel and challenging repertoire.

In this session, David Allinson will champion 'miraculous miniatures' including Tallis's *If ye love me* and Byrd's *Ave verum corpus*, in the hope of reminding you why they are such gloriously successful pieces of music. For many choral singers, such repertoire forms their first experience of early music, and it's easy to forget how good they are.

How and why did these canonical pieces survive the vicissitudes of history? What purpose did they serve in their own time, and how have they come to epitomise a particular era of English music? This is a fascinating story of sectarianism, national identity, changing tastes and competing performance traditions.

As well as looking afresh at the notes, David will explore the musical and religious contexts around these familiar gems — Tallis composing for the new Anglican liturgy, Byrd serving a recusant Catholic context — each drawing on continental models to create pieces we now regard as the epitome of the English choral tradition.

## Speaker

David Allinson is a freelance conductor, singer and academic with wide experience as a teacher and leader of choral workshops. His love is sacred choral music, with a speciality in the Renaissance period. His PhD focused on Tudor sacred music and his continuing research emphasises the social and devotional context of polyphony, in the past and today.

Based in Canterbury, David has led countless workshops and singing holidays in the UK and Europe. Until 2019 he was Director of Music at Canterbury Christ Church University; before that he lectured in Music at Bristol and Oxford universities; he also has long experience of leading school and community choirs. David has directed the Renaissance Singers (London) since 2010 [ see <https://www.renaissancesingers.com>].

David was a Choral Scholar while studying at Oxford, and subsequently held a professional singing post at a London church. He now sings occasionally at Canterbury Cathedral evensong. Known for combining scholarship, technical know-how and humorous positivity in his teaching, recently he has — perforce — developed a new line in Zoom workshops and talks as he waits for the pandemic to pass, and has discovered he rather likes communicating this way.



There is no charge to attend this session, but we suggest a minimum donation of £5 to cover the speaker's fee. Please pay by bank transfer to the SWEMF account, sort code 40-28-22, account number 91477285, using the reference DA March 06.

In order to receive the Zoom link, and links to relevant scores and recordings in advance of the workshop, please register via the website: <https://www.swemf.org.uk/event/6150/>